

Gothic Beauty

Magazine



**AMF's red hot
corsets for
winter**

**Exotic fantasy
fashions of
Narcisse
Designs**

**Rock stars and
fetish dolls**

photography by:
**Forrest Black/Amelia G
and Lee Higgs**

ISSUE 4

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303 \$ 4.25

Plus: The Damned - Moonspell - The Nuns

Holiday Media Inc. - www.gothicbeauty.com - model: Mistress Domiana (brandie bayless) - photo: Harry Sumako - remix: kristoff.com

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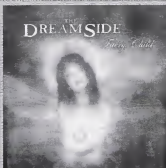
Includes their smash hit singles *Velocity* and *Music For A Paranormal Life*, & their brand new single, *Wake Me Up*. 12/04/01



Nosferatu

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The first best-of album from one of the most successful British goth rock bands. Includes video track: *The Haunting*. Release: 12/04/01



The Dreamside

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Behind The Scenes

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The Cruxshadows

Paradox Addendum



Pet Shop Boys Tribute

very introspective, actually

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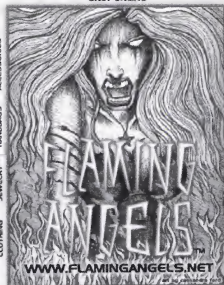
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model: Verolthe
photo: Terrell Black
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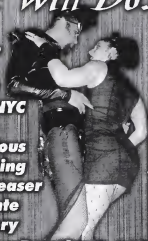
House Of Ill Repute - Pleaser

Nome De Plume - Jante

Leg Avenue - Z Hoisery



Model: Vanessa - Photo: Jeff Elman



Model: Vanessa - Photo: Jeff Elman

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Mistress Domiana is wearing the Metropolis corset (\$320) with the Metropolis skirt (\$395) by AMF Korsets.

contents

- 4 Syren: Fetish Fashion
- 12 Narcisse Designs: Designer Profile
- 18 The Damned: Music Interview
- 21 Lee Higgs: Photography Profile
- 27 AMF Korsets: Designer Showcase
- 32 Moonspell: Music Interview
- 34 Forrest Black/Amelia G: Photography Profile
- 40 The Nuns: Music Interview
- 44 Black Dragon Fashions: Gothic Fashion
- 50 Anastasia: Beauty
- 52 Music Reviews
- 55 Index to Designers & Advertisers

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*My thanks to you, the reader,
for supporting the magazine.*

-Steven

01:12:23:01:25:19



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SYREN

For a long time now, Andy Wilkes of

Syren has been making people's fantasies come true in latex. After working in mainstream fashion in London, he went back to school to retrain at the intensive London College of Fashion. The program covered every step of garment conceptualization through construction. "Anything that you drew, you had to be able to make," Andy explains. He claims he just drew "scruffily" and had concepts in his head, but his designs have been setting the standard in American fetishwear for more than a decade.

He says when he came to the U.S., he felt that the American mindset was very "hush, hush" with respect to latex. So the irrepressible designer went about dressing stars ranging from Pamela Anderson to Jennifer Tilley to Bruce Willis for mainstream fashion magazines and movies. He felt that by going immediately for mainstream acceptance he could bring latex out of the closet, as it were. It was a Syren design Michelle Pfeiffer menaced Batman in and, even as you read this,

For item
descriptions
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Model: Szandora

the Syren crew is hard at work on costume development for *Men in Black II*.

Syren's main man does not have his head turned by celebrity, though. He does whatever it takes to make everyone's fantasies come true. "The Syren thing," he says, "has always been about this kind of goddess mentality of, irrespective of whatever your gender preference or the partner that you are with, you should always polish their pedestal. If you don't look up to them and see them as being worthy then it

continued on page 8

THE RION

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doesn't leave you much in the relationship. It's an equal thing. Both partners should always say 'hey you look great, wear it.' I've never been about size either. I've done everybody from 80 pounds soaking wet up to 575 pounds and I don't believe that just because of your size you shouldn't wear something. But it takes more guts at 575 pounds to wear it, than it does for somebody at 110 pounds, and that's really the only consideration."

The name of his store and clothing line, of course, comes from "the mythological creature who was intensely alluring and would lure fishermen to their ultimate demise on the rocks." Given the theme, we had Szandora and Janna James model some of Syren's gorgeous clothes. Szandora was recently voted the readers' favorite model on BarelyEvil.com and Janna James is the sultry lead singer of the Gothic rock band Doppelganger. Janna actually wore a Syren dress in her most recent video for the tune "Modern Angel." It's all about the hotties of myth and legend. ♦

Article by Amelia G

www.syren.com



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UK gothic lifestyle



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profile

Chicago's Narcisse Designs, an award winning costume, design, and artisan gallery has exploded on the fashion scene thanks in much to the staunch support of several icons of the media and fashion scene who appreciate what they offer the fashion community. Narcisse was not intended to market to the masses. Instead, Narcisse prides itself in creating truly unique clothing for those who wish to make a matchless impression. Narcisse is also proud to collaborate with master artisans from all genres in creating new pieces, either through Veronica's modeling or conceptual collaboration by both Veronica and Derek. Classically seductive. Teasingly provocative. Uninhibited. Narcisse exploits the inner ego bringing fantasy to reality.

Narcisse Designs is headed by Derek and Veronica, a powerful duo who serve as both maker and muse to each other's creative expressions. Both have an undying love for the arts, which are massively under-supported in Chicago. Partners for over six years, the couple feed off each other's creative passion and have taken on multi-directional art related careers.

Narcisse Designs is just one entity under The House of Narcisse. The House of Narcisse is an umbrella production company located in the newly resurrected Chicago Arts Building. The multi-genre entity houses the creative projects of Derek and Veronica which include Narcisse Designs, Echo Gallery, Entropy Studios and the Die:Schon Kolectiv.



Above and left:
Stainless and
aluminum
batwings \$329.99

Stainless and
leather g-string
\$89.99





**Chrome plated copper mask
with silver chains \$1,000**

**Red leather slave collar with
lace-up back \$129**

**Black mesh dress with
hand-cut tribal pattern
\$1,000**

Model: Veronica

How long have you been designing clothes?

Derek, who is 6'8" tall and never had clothes that would fit, learned how to sew at a very young age. Veronica, who has been partner to Derek for over 6 years, both studied and drew inspiration from watching Derek and last year created Narcisse Designs. Also, available Halloween costumes were banal and never the characters we were after... so necessity really was the mother of our invention

Can you tell us a little about the history of Narcisse Designs?

Many people would see our clothes on stage and on other dancers, actors, and musicians and repeatedly ask for one of their own. Interestingly, before we offered clothing we would see some of these people around town with our design that they attempted to make for themselves (sometimes well, and other times....). The natural progression for our artistic integrity, believe it or not, was to offer our designs for sale.

What are some of the challenges you've encountered in this line of business?

Being able to work as fast as you think it's easy to become bored with a design you have worked on too long. Most everything else about the business seems to be falling into place without much effort.

I know the House of Narcisse is 'spearheaded' also by Derek. What are some of his contributions to the style and image of Narcisse?

Both drew parallels to the art direction of movies such as Bladerunner, Star Wars, Legend, later by such films as The Cell, 5th Element, artists such as Boris Vallejo, Denis Mukai, Hajime Sorayama, Olivia, H.R.Giger, cheesecake pin-up artists. Both were equally as influenced by chameleonic performers such as David Bowie and Madonna

Derek trained at the Chicago School for the Performing Arts, plays over 14 instruments and is trained in opera, theatre, voice, dance and costume design. Derek's passion for creating with his bare hands is obvious in his design of Echo Gallery, constructing everything

continued on page 15



Model: Picasso



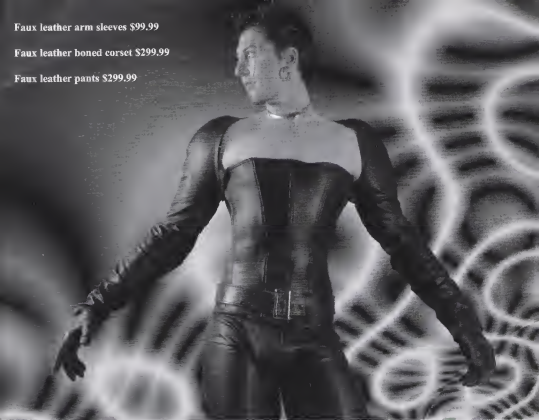
Above: Long form fitting leather trench with dual sided gothic buttons \$1,200

Left: White stitched elastic torso with snapped neck and poly blend half pants \$489

Faux leather arm sleeves \$99.99

Faux leather boned corset \$299.99

Faux leather pants \$299.99



including walls, electricity, even the plumbing. Derek's involvements include director of Entropy Studios Chicago and Die:Schon with creative input from Veronica, head designer for the men's line and creative partner for the women's line for Narcisse Designs. Derek also shares the position of director of Echo Gallery. Derek keeps busy with video work, voice-overs, art direction, and choreography for both film work and stage productions. Derek works toward a broader artist network/infrastructure here in Chicago.

Veronica's involvement includes webmaster/designer for Echo and Narcisse's award winning websites, head designer for the women's division for Narcisse and creative partner for the men's line, president of Narcisse Designs, partner of Echo Gallery, fashion show production and coordinator for the House of Narcisse productions. This also includes several fashion balls and modeling for over 100 artist collaborations.

What's the turn-around time from a custom order to completion? Is it possible to get custom fitted even if someone wants to purchase a design but doesn't live in Chicago?

Turn-around depends on the item and situation. We've had clients that need a dress for a Vegas wedding in 5 days,

musicians who need an outfit for that night's performance, and a Thai lady of aristocracy who wished to purchase an entire wardrobe. It all depends. We do, however, work with clients and we must, unfortunately, prioritize for what and where we feel we are needed. As for fittings, clients have included rock stars, playmates, and celebrities who fly their assistants in for fittings. We've even taken measurements over the phone for a playboy shoot— but our basic turnaround time is 3-4 weeks and most orders are easily created with a few accurate measurements by the client.

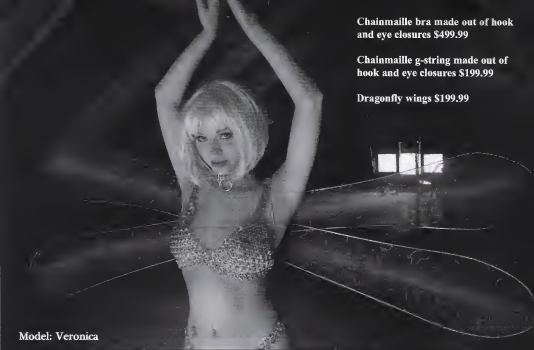
What's one of your best selling clothing lines?

Oddly enough, (and we actually had to check the records) there isn't one item that has a substantially larger run than any of the others. However evening dresses and metal wear do consistently well.

What's your future vision for Narcisse Designs?

More movie costuming, more video costuming, and more boundaries being pushed. ♦

www.NarcisseDesigns.com



Chainmaille bra made out of hook
and eye closures \$499.99

Chainmaille g-string made out of
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Dragonfly wings \$199.99

Model: Veronica

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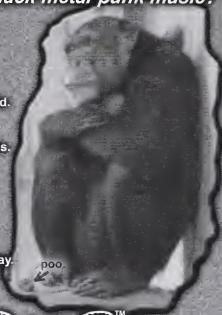
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interview

You've been in a number of projects before coming into The Damned. What was the transition like, and how did it come about?

I was just ending my solo band and Captain and David had just begun playing together again. They had Paul Grey playing bass and he was hit in the mouth with a plastic glass that was thrown onstage at a gig and quit. Captain then suggested trying me out to David. I said I'd give it a go as I wasn't sure about a girl in the Damned so we'd see how it went. Although I am no shrinking violet it still wasn't a sure thing in my mind that it would work. That was 5 years ago!

The Damned is legendary in what one would call goth and punk cultures. How do you think fans from the early days will respond to the newer, evolved sound?

Oddly enough David Vanian is never really referred to as 'goth'. I am in loads of gothic books but David rarely is, a situation I always found bizarre as in the 1980's alone there were thousands of young male goths imitating everything from his flouncy shirts (still everywhere I notice) and the white streak in his hair. But I always saw him as the first man in a band I came across who embodied the gothic image and in such a beautiful way. Not cheesy in any manner. But somehow The Damned will ALWAYS be perceived as a punk band, no matter what, after all no matter how David looked the band was created at the time of the punk explosion and had the attitude that was explosive as well. I was a big Damned fan from the first album and I think, as well as most people who've heard it, that the new cd is a classic Damned album with the

From one of the greatest Punk Rock bands ever, 25 years after their start, The Damned bring us their newest release *Grave Disorder*. Gothic Beauty sits with Patricia Morrison for Q&A.

classic Damned sound.

We've worked really hard for the past 5 years and its nice to see it has paid off. I do feel a part of this band and I also feel this album will appeal to anyone who liked any of the earlier albums. There is a little bit (and sometimes more than a little) of all the past records, especially, the *Black Album* and *Strawberries*. I, as a Damned fan, love it.

On a similar note, specifically the gothic subculture has undergone various periods of evolution, in fashion, in music, etc.. Do you think a deemed subculture reaches a point where it ends, or does it simply shift gradually and expand?

It always changes. It is a natural process and I think it's great it does change. The gothic scene I see now is split into so many factions. Cyber goth seems to be the newest. I still love the more traditional as well as I love corsets and very feminine clothing.

Again about music: would you say music today is lacking social, political, and/or artistic depth? Or is

this simply plaguing the more mainstream bands?

The charts suck and I hate deejays who blab on with idiot jokes and laughing at how clever they are so I rarely listen to the radio at all. Remember, I live in England! There are good bands out there, plenty of them. They are just not what the world seems that interested in on a mass scale these days. You have to search to find them.

What significance or inspiration do you find with what you do as an artist - i.e. is there anything in particular that pushes you towards music projects?

I love music and I've always said the day I don't enjoy being onstage, I will stop because that isn't fair to anyone.

What do you like to listen to? Are there any specific bands or styles in your mind that stick out as influences?

I love 60's garage bands. When I discovered them they were already from decades before my time but I still love it. Classic music (the only decent radio station in the UK) is on in our house a



lot. I don't have a specific style of band I like. It's usually the songs.

Where do you see The Damned going in the future?

To the top. Or is that the Big Top? We will see how the cd does. Damned fans are into it. Now we have to see if people who don't even know who we are will like it. We are so old we are new!

Are there any plans for touring or many further releases in the works?

We will be touring into the next millennium the way it looks at the moment! We have a US tour starting in Vancouver (maybe I should say North American) starting September 21st and ending in the Southern States on November 3rd. We then do a UK tour with some European cities thrown in for

good measure and then hopefully Italy just before Christmas. The Italians seem to really like the cd so far and they have great food, culture, food, architecture- Did I mention food? ♦

Patricia was interviewed by Jessikae

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profile



Lee Higgs has established himself as a leading fetish photographer able to capture beautiful women in creatively provocative poses. His work has been described as "dreamlike" and "intensely real". He combines perspective, distortion, and placement to achieve his award winning photos.

Lee has been published in many fetish mags including *Skin Two* and *Fetish Magazine*. Lee also has a new book out entitled, *Generation Fetish*. His book showcases over 300 of his photos and it has been receiving high praises.

Now based in Chicago, Lee tells us of his experiences in his own words.

"I grew up in the suburbs of New York City, and then went to Columbia University. After college, I married, had three children, and worked as a salesman for twenty years. I only started photographing women a few years ago, very late in life. Before that, I was a medical supply salesman. But I was very determined, or should I say "obsessed", right from the start. I felt that I had no choice but to succeed and no time to work my way up. So I put everything on the line.

I was always interested in creative pursuits like writing, acting, and music. But it wasn't until I stumbled onto photography that I felt compelled to take the chance and make creativity my profession

continued on page 23





Model Above: Amber

Model Left and Right: Mistress
Veronica Blake



instead of a sometime hobby. But I have no training, and I do not even consider myself to be particularly talented as a photographer. What I lack in skill I try to make up for with passion.

I am fortunate that my second wife is very understanding and supportive. I am also fortunate to have met so many beautiful and creative women who like my work and are willing to let me take their picture. A few have been with me from the beginning and have become good friends. I would not have gotten anywhere without women like Cherish, Veronica Blake, Myma, and Tiffany, who is on the cover of my book. And I have been helped by many great designers, like Veronica of Narcisse Designs, Geoffrey Mac, Paul C. Leather, and Vex

Clothing.

Despite the fact that I love to photograph women, I am starting to get restless. I have been doing this for three years now and I need new challenges and new worlds to explore. So lately I have been experimenting with video, music, and searching for ways to merge my still photography with motion and sound. So stay tuned."

Both his new book *Generation Fetish* and individual color prints can be purchased via his website. ♦

www.kinkymachine.com



Model Credits Clockwise from top left: Mistress Veronica Blake and Sabrina (2 photos)

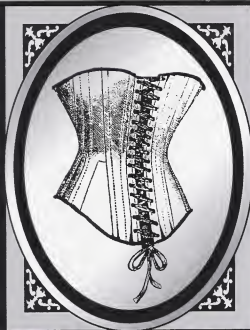


"Photography is an act of love. We define ourselves by what we choose to see. The camera is a tool, recording what is real. Photography is an act of subversion. What is real is precisely what terrifies. Photography demands moral courage. Nothing is true. Everything is permitted. Focus. Try not to blink."

-Lee Higgs



Model: Elke Cooper



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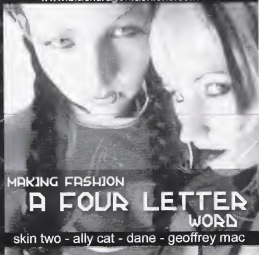
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Model: Mistress Domiana

AMFKORSETS.COM

Apocalyptic Fetish Designs by Louis Fleischauer

Photographs by Harry Sumako Remix by Silicon Diva/kristoff.com



Metropolis (right)

Hand molded leather corset. Lined with lambskin. Decorative metal boning on the leather surface.

Colors: Black/metal.

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Metal choker \$20

Metal bracelet \$12

Metal armband \$15



Cyborg (left)

Custom made, hand molded leather corset. Lined with lambskin.

Allen bone structure and intricate carvings on the leather surface.

Kali (right)

Hand molded leather corset. Lined with lambskin and embellished with decorative piping.

Available in: purple, red, blue, green, black, red/black, and metallic blue.

Starts at \$320

Bat choker plain \$20

Model: Mistress Domiana





Ares (near left)

Hand molded leather corset. Lined with lambskin.
Colors: purple, red, blue, green, black, red/black, and metallic blue.
Starts at \$285

Frey (below)

Hand molded leather waist cincher
Available with or without lambskin lining.
Colors: purple, red, blue, green, black, red/black, and metallic blue.
Starts at \$178
Headpiece \$45
Metal bracelet \$10
Metal choker \$20

Custom Waist Cincher (left)

Custom made, hand molded leather corset. Lined with lambskin. Alien bone structure and intricate carvings and special dying technique.
Model: Casey





Astrid (top left)

Hand molded leather corset. Available with or without lambskin lining.

Colors: purple, red, blue, green, black, red/black, and metallic blue. Starts at \$320

Suede choker with ring \$20

Medusa (bottom Left)

Hand molded leather corset, lined with lambskin.

Special dye technique, decorated with patterned veins.
Colors: Black background with, metallic red, metallic blue, or metallic green. Starts at \$295

Daji (above)

Hand molded leather corset, lined with lambskin.

Special dye technique. Hand painted with Chinese characters.
Colors: purple, red, blue, green, black, red/black, and metallic blue. Starts at \$295

Choker with 3 rings, Red Patent Leather on Black \$25

Model: Tiffany



Durga (top left)

Hand molded leather corset.
Lined with lambskin,
embellished with decorative piping
Colors: purple, red, blue, green, black, red/black,
and metallic blue. Starts at \$300

Electra (middle left)

Hand molded leather corset. Lined with
lambskin and embellished with decorative
piping, 4 metal hooks, speed laces.

Colors: purple, red, blue, green, black, red/black, and metallic blue. Starts at \$380

Astrid (bottom left)

Hand molded leather corset. Available with or without lambskin lining.

Colors: purple, red, blue, green, black, red/black, and metallic blue. Starts at \$320

Hela (right)

Hand molded leather corset. Lined with lambskin.

Colors: purple, red, blue, green, black, red/black, and metallic blue. Starts at \$280

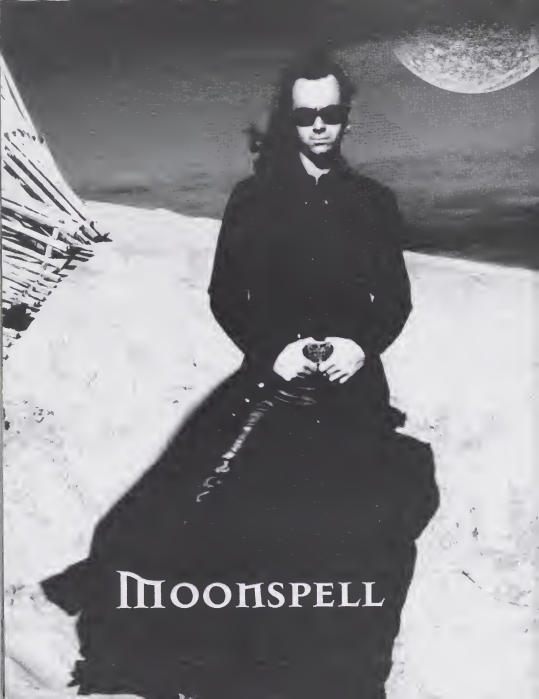
Bat choker with ring \$25

Model: Julia

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MOONSPELL



Moonspell's newest release, *Darkness and Hope* unveils many emotions ranging from soft and beautiful, to dark and intense. Fernando, please describe the many moods of Moonspell and how you would best categorize Moonspell's current sound.

It is quite impossible to describe the many moods within just one album since they try to illustrate and to narrate several stories contained in a bigger one. That larger narrative combines moments of fall and ascension, of death, in its many forms, including live, the mixed, dimmed frontiers between darkness and hope. Moonspell's current sound can be defined as visual metal, unconventional, original and at any rate personal.

What personal experiences have most shaped the poetry that you illustrate through Moonspell?

Too many to be accounted really, since we privilege both dimensions of the vigilant and non-vigilant status, so we can't define them. Maybe our music can be the best definition or exorcism we can come up with. For *Darkness and Hope*, though, I could detach the hardest winter ever-since I was born, as one of the main influences for the composition of the lyrical part of the album. Also the death of my grandmother, on which I will not dwell further.

What other bands or musicians have had influence on Moonspell's music?

We try, nowadays, to be influenced by Moonspell mainly, looking to all our past albums and finding out more about our personality. But it would be fair to quote bands such as Type O Negative, Ratt, Bathory, Celtic Frost, Fields of the Nephilim as very important external influences for

Moonspell.

Darkness and Hope contains many references to fire (firewalking, the firewalker, how we became fire). What does fire mean to Moonspell?

Many things yet specifically on darkness and hope is more used as an icon for danger and knowledge.

The track, "Than the serpents in my hands", contains a poetic quote by Mário Cesáry, spoken by Adolfo Luxúria Canibal. What can you tell us about Mário Cesáry and Adolfo Luxúria Canibal?

Actually it is called "Than the serpents in my arms". It's a sad misprint from the factory, I guess. Well, Mário Cesáry is a very important portuguese poet, one of the pioneers of the Surrealistic movement, in literary and plastic terms in Portugal. He is one of my favorite portuguese poets, as well. Adolfo L. Canibal is the lead singer, lyricist and storyteller of Mão Morta, a cult rock band from Portugal. He was the right voice and charisma to narrate the sinister lullaby Cesáry wrote and in my opinion the result is quite scary and deep at once.

What are the reasons behind your decision to include "Mr. Crowley" on *Darkness and Hope* and why is this inclusion available only on the U.S. release?

We played this song during many European tours in the past and felt it was high time to document it on a record. As we were received with much enthusiasm in the USA by the people who knew the band and waited for years for us to come in America, we have listened many times to their complaints about the lack of distribution of European metal in the States, and how expensive were the imported records, and that all the special

editions were European and they were left with a big problem because of that. We think it's a great Ozzy song, with a great theme and a strong mystique so we decided to make our own reading of it and present it mainly to our followers in the States. I hope they will like it as much as we enjoyed doing it in the studio!

"Rapaces" is a very interesting track. What is the sound sample used in the beginning of this track?

It's taken from a sci-fi/vampire movie called *Lifeorce*. It fitted amazingly well inside the theme of the song, the psychik vampires.

Having toured with Marilyn Manson and Type O Negative, please tell our readers a bit about Moonspell's live performance experiences.

Every tour and every show is somewhat different considering the degree of difference between audiences and places. What we try is to tell the stories contained in our songs in a warm, passionate ambience. Therefore we try to create that ambient by having a dramatic approach to our shows, to act a bit, to perform very tight and very strong. In Europe we have a lot of specials and a huge scenery put up. Unfortunately we can't take it to the US but we will try to have another approach- interesting and passionate as well, even though more raw at places.

What are the upcoming tour plans for Moonspell in 2002 and beyond?

Before the end of 2001 we are going to tour the USA and Canada for about 3 weeks. Then we will return to Portugal. We are trying to book two shows in Russia in January and a tour with Tiamat is being planned in Europe, around February/March. Then we will take it from there.

What else can we expect from Moonspell in the future?

Dark stones, complex webs, paths of fire, dreams and dramas, and above all an ever stronger Moonspell!!! See you on tour ♦

Fernando was interviewed by Sonya Brown

The Photography of Forrest Black & Amelia G

From rock stars to fetish dolls, Forrest & Amelia have captured and showcased the many beautiful faces that make the scene.

How did you two meet?

Forrest: Well, back in the mists of time, we met at an underground industrial club in Washington D.C. Amelia was working on a story for some publication on this new and somewhat obscure band called Nine Inch Nails, and I had some press related info that I was able to fax over to her. As it turned out, we shared a strong interest in media and the budding subculture we shared, oh, and office supplies. We both love office supplies.

Do you have formal training and if so, from where?

Forrest: No, not really. I'm pretty sure I don't know what I'm doing. I just like the way it turns out.

Amelia: Being self-taught and learning from trial and error was really exciting but really stressful at first. Now that we've developed a style, we are afraid to learn how to do things the right way.

How long have you been doing photography?

Forrest: A couple years I guess. Not terribly long.

Where are you from?

Forrest: I'm originally from San Francisco, born in a house with thirteen black cats, but I've lived all over. My first words were Greek.

Amelia: I was born in London and I've

lived all over the place. When I got to college, it was my twelfth school in twelve years.

How did you get started?

Amelia: After the fifth or sixth time my parents moved when I was a kid, I became pretty withdrawn and I liked to read a lot. I got a lot more extroverted when I hit puberty, but I still loved media. I always wanted to create and be published. For a long time, I think I hoped someone would see my potential and give me an opportunity, but I am not a patient girl. So I got into zine publishing and one thing led to another.

Did you think you would get this big?

Forrest: I don't really think of it as big exactly. Yeah, we have our works show up in a lot of areas, and I hope that our vision has had a positive impact on the subculture, but most of the time, our focus is on promoting other people's cool projects, bands, fashions, clubs, and things like that. If a measure of bigness is how much of an impact you have on the world around you, I'm not nearly as big as I intend to be.

Amelia: Actually, I'm quite irate that I am not Benevolent World Dictator. Yet.

Forrest: She's not kidding in the least.

How do you pick your models?

Amelia: We look for people who have a

lot of passion and extremity of personal style and star quality in general. A lot of photographers only shoot women, but we shoot both male and female models. No particular body type or weight. Just sex appeal and individuality. A lot of times, we will set up a sort of location studio at a big Gothic, glam, or fetish event and shoot portraits of club-goers on the spot. These pictures often make it into magazine features or online galleries. If we really like how a model interacts with us and with the camera, such event shoots can often function as a sort of screen test for who we will shoot more extensively. Of course, we will collaborate more often with a model who has a look which is good for multiple projects i.e. can do fashion, tattoo, nude, and fetish poses, and promotes a club, and is in a band would be ideal. We also accept model submissions online at <http://www.blueblood.net/model/> and often decide what cities to take road trips to based on online model submissions.

Forrest: I think that there are a lot of beautiful club-kids, artists, and individualists out there, and it is my goal to capture and share that beauty. With that in mind, a certain genuine realness needs to exist. We're not trying to dress up a model to look like a cool person. We'd much rather find someone who already has it going on.

Who are your favorite models?

Pretty much all of them have been really great in one respect or another, but there are a handful that have really believed in us over the years and given a lot of their time and energy. These are the ones that have allowed us the creative freedom to branch out and try some really fun things with. Many of the works I am most proud of have come out of

continued on page 38





Model: Daniel Ribiat





Model: Jenn Skott



Model: Calla

these collaborations.

Is this what you always wanted to do?

Forrest: I really enjoy the fun things that we get to do and the cool people we get to meet while doing them. I try to remember that when things get difficult.

Amelia: Actually, I'm really not sure what I do. I live in Los Angeles now and, at parties here, people always get around to asking what the person they are talking to does. I never know how to answer the question. In general, I like to participate in cool creative projects with other cool creative people. But am I

an art photographer?

Journalist? Fiction author? Erotic photographer? Fashion photographer? Rock photographer? In most respects, I am living the life I always dreamed of but never thought I would get. In some respects, things have really really not gone according to plan. Not sure yet what I want to be when I grow up. ♦

www.BlueBlood.net



Forrest Black



Amelia G



Model: Peter Thomas



Model: Helvetia



Model: Dana Dark



Model: Eddylolious



In Total Control...

You recently signed with the London-based label Triple Silence run by Nigel Wingrove. I know he also runs a Film Production company. How did that deal come about and how would you describe your relationship between artist and label?

We did recently sign with Nigel Wingrove's new label and he is also trying to do a deal with Virgin or Sony so that he is part of a major label. Virgin already likes the new song "White Slave", which is the song we did the video of. Nigel is going to send Virgin a copy, so we are keeping our fingers crossed.

Nigel actually was shopping for a group like us and found us on the internet. Actually, I think it was the picture of Kris and I nude in the cage that did it. I put that picture up on our website, and three days later we got the record deal. He didn't even listen to a note of music, it was that picture! (Well, later on he did actually listen to the music...) Anyway, I had never heard of Nigel Wingrove, but I had actually bought a *Skin Two* magazine that had one of his photos on the cover and a big article on him with pages and pages. I had bought the magazine and thought that the images were really superb. So then, I read all about Nigel and it turns out that he is this very famous film director who is completely obsessed with NUNS. I mean all of his films are about Nuns doing very sensual things, and also his photos too. So, of course I thought, how perfect! So we sort of got to know each other over the E-Mail, over a period of about six months, and I got to know all about him.

He is this very fascinating person, very dark. I have watched his films several times and they are very sexual, avant garde, and ahead of their time, which is very cool. He combines a lot of elements in film that you would never expect.

I just basically fell madly in love with Nigel. I mean, I love him. What can I say. I love him. I don't think I could ever meet anyone in this entire world that would be more perfect for The Nuns or for me. I am basically just trying not to be too caught up in the emotional drama of all of this. There seems to be a lot of drama involved when you have emotions. Sometimes I wish that I could be more shallow and not have any feelings, but I seem to be one of these ultra-sensitive people that just feels everything. Most people I know try to block their feelings, but I can't do that.

You describe your live shows as being a fascinating bondage psycho-drama. How important are the stage props and audience participation during one of your shows?

Actually the shows are a lot of fun. Each show is different, because there is a lot of spontaneous audience participation, which makes it really interesting. Also, the girls we use change around a lot, because in NYC everyone is always just so BUSY, so each show has different girls. We start with a basic choreography, and do a two hour rehearsal, but then

continued on page 43

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I just tell the girls to have fun on stage and just do whatever they feel. Sometimes they even take off their clothes, but I never ask them to. I think the songs inspire them. The most important prop onstage is the riding crop, which we use especially for the song "I Am Your Mistress", which is really one of the best live songs, because we all hit the floor with the crops at the same time to the beat of the sampled whip crack.

The show is really the most fun when we can do the whole thing, especially starting the wedding procession from the back of the audience, and then ending the set with the vampire girls biting me in the neck and killing me. If we had a huge budget, I would love to really do an incredible stage show with sets and costume changes, sort of Phantom Of The Opera meets Kiss meets Marilyn Manson.

Your new album 'God That Rules Me' is out now. The concept of control is one of its major themes. What's your opinion regarding control?

Yes, control is very interesting to me. I do tend to like mind games, and very dark, complicated people. But I get caught up in what seems at first to be a game, and those games can become too real. Sometimes I find that I am tapping into very primitive emotions and feelings, or at least it feels that way. I do like being dominated. I don't really like to dominate men at all, but I look good dressed as a dominatrix and it seems to suit me. It's funny though. There are certain men that seem to know that I am really not into being submissive. They just seem to know that. It's kind of frightening, the way they can sometimes see into your soul. But unfortunately, I can't really have a normal relationship with a man, for some reason, it has to be complicated and dark, I guess, or else it just bores me. I don't think I could just have a dull normal relationship. But this means that my life is in constant turmoil. I am always in some kind of relationship drama that never works out. But, these are my songs I guess. I couldn't write about something dull,

with no conflict. I told my last boyfriend that I was using him for songs. Maybe it was true. I don't think I am really gay, but I seem to be attracted to pretty girls, I like to be around them, sometimes I want them to brush my hair, but they never do.

Over the Fall of 2001, you played in London's ultra-exclusive Home House and during that same trip, shot your latest video with events filmed by The Playboy Channel. Will any of those performances be airing soon?

I just spoke with The Playboy Channel, and he says he doesn't know when it will be aired, but now The Discovery Channel wants to show our new "White Slave" video on a show they are doing about London Goth, so that would be really cool. I love The Discovery Channel.

Do you have any plans to tour in early 2002 and if so, where can we find you?

Well Nigel is right now working on a tour of Paris, Amsterdam and London. That would be great, because I have never been to Paris or

Amsterdam. I have always wanted to be one of those prostitutes that stands in the windows in Amsterdam. I just have to go and see that. It sounds so surreal! As for a tour of USA, well, we will see if we can get a deal with Virgin (they had the Spice Girls, I joke that we are the fetish Spice Girls), then we would have the budget to tour. Touring is expensive.

It seems like you're being well received especially in the UK. Do you expect that level of success / recognition to follow your performances in the US?

Yes, I think if people could get a chance to hear and see us, that they would love us. I think people are bored with the music of today. I know that I am. We are very entertaining and there is really nothing like us. I think we go over well in London because, you know what they say, the english are so KINKY! Not so much in the physical sense, but mentally, the english are very tragic and complicated, and they love the power games. ♦

Jennifer was interviewed by Steven Holiday

www.nyrock.com/the_nuns



Above: Holly is wearing the Dane Pedal Slash Halter. Check site for pricing and availability.

Upper Right: Holly is wearing the Alleycat PVC Cross Top, \$95.

Lower Right: Chandra is wearing the Cybertube Top, \$245.

Clothing courtesy Black Dragon Fashions.

black dragon fashions
<http://www.blackdragonfashions.com>

making fashion a four letter word

Right: Holly is wearing the Dane Pedal Slash Long Sleeve. Check site for pricing and availability.

Lower Right: Julz (left) is wearing the Dane Decoglitler Bustier. Chandra (right) is wearing the Pedal Slash Long Sleeve. Check site for pricing and availability.

Below: Chandra (left) and Holly (right) are wearing the Dane Pedal Slash Halter. Check site for pricing and availability.

Clothing courtesy Black Dragon Fashions.

All Photography for the Black Dragon set by Gemini Photography.
www.geminipho.net

Hair for the Black Dragon set by Fetish Lily.

Make-up for the Black Dragon set by Strange girl.





This Page: Chandra is wearing the Geoffrey Mac Sleeved Kitty Tit \$190 and the Geoffrey Mac Tunnel Skirt \$95.

Opposite Page: Athena is wearing the Geoffrey Mac Rubber Awning Vest, \$275.

Clothing courtesy Black Dragon Fashions.







Above and Left: Holly is wearing the Geoffrey Mac Pointed Bust Tube \$95 and the Diamond Sweep Skirt \$230.

Clothing courtesy Black Dragon Fashions.

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Blue Blood Magazine #7. Vampire Chic, Cecilia Tan, Thomas Roche, Justice Howard, strap-ons, T-bone flicks, Persephone, Cherry Jayson, hot! You must be of legal age to order \$9

Marilyn Manson New Rave collectors issue limited supply of valuable edition featuring layout with the Antichrist Superstar Mechanical Animal getting it in both ends from porno star Marilyn Star! Also Julie Strain & more \$20



Marquis 19. Forrest Black and Amelia G did the article on James Stone's Halloween Masquerade Ball at the Variety Arts Center. Forrest and Amelia also shot the cover photograph of the devilish Mistress Domiana. Inside the glossy pages, you will find articles on Mistress Domiana, Persephone, Retail Slut's Yolanda, photographs of a latex mermaid and more! \$19.00

Ghastly 9 Stories and interviews featuring Bauhaus, Gitane Demone (with photos by Forrest Black and Amelia G), Collide, Front 242, Nine Inch Nails, Inkubus Sukkubus, Cinema Strange, Clan of Xymox, Community FK, Penis Pity Trap, and a bunch more cool stuff. \$7.00

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--Punk Planet

this zine is simply put, witty. The writing is at times fresh, insightful and often humorous
--Ha

all this fun stuff... although the people they ridicule and attack may not think so
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music reviews

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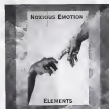
SUMERLAND

Sivo

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As we join in the beautiful journey that is the music of Sumerland; their newest release, Sivo, leads us to the lush landscapes of the "Exalted City". The deep silky vocals of Doreen ushers this spiritual journey. Sumerland's music is the path beneath our feet. Sivo gives listeners eleven glorious tracks to get lost in. A deep, lush forest of sound beneath the "Crimson Tree", where nymphs perform the "Circle Dance" for our delight. As the forest darkens, Doreen's disembodied chants in "Bygones to the New Heaven" remind us that our journey is far from over. Sumerland is the romancer, and Sivo is the golden chariot that carries the romancer's poetry to our balcony. Middle Pillar brings us splendor with Sumerland's Sivo.

-Sonya



★★★★

NOXIOUS EMOTION

Elements

ADSR Musicwerks

When I hear "Nobellum", the first track of Noxious Emotions' CD, Elements, kick in - I'm there. I'm stomping to the drum beats at the foot of the stage, watching Noxious Emotion deliver their intense industrial beats that kick you square in the head. Elements is an extension of the intensity I feel at their live shows. Fitter, Noxious Emotion's female percussionist, can humble most any male drummer with a toss of her ever-changing hair as she LITERALLY sets fire to her tattered cymbals. My favorite track on Elements is the opening track, "Nobellum". It sets the tone for the entire CD, and puts me in the frame of mind to "be there" at the foot of the stage. Noxious Emotion (Seattle, Washington) dances to the beat of many different drummers.

-Sonya



★★★★★

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Grave Disorder

Nitro Records

Raise and clap, folks, one of the most renowned names in punk and goth culture is back in the saddle with a new album! Grave Disorder is one hell of a refreshing listening experience, keeping a degree of their classic sound while adding that special something that brings it to the new millennium with incredible style. The lineup may have changed, but the sound just got better - dare I say, this album is fun! There isn't a disappointing track on this CD, as every song has it's own individual sound, but my favorites have to be "She", "Absinthe", and "The End of Time". Grave Disorder is a must - have!

-Jessikae



★★★★★

TRISTANIA

World of Glass

Napalm Records

Operatic female vocals with theatrical delivery take you on a musical journey through a World of Glass. Gothic metal from Napalm Records, Tristania (Stavanger, Norway), showcases both demonic and angelic vocals to tell this symphonic story. Much like glass, smooth and beautiful until broken - then jagged and cutting. World of Glass is both harsh and lovely at the same time. Tristania raises your emotions to heaven, and then dashes them to hell. I particularly like the keyboard & violin in "Deadlocked". For those that need a little more theatrics in their lives, Tristania's World of Glass can deliver the drama.

-Sonya



★★★★½

SMP

Terminal

ADSR Musicwerks

Terminal is terminally intense! Seattle's SMP - Sounds of Mass Production - blend Techno Industrial programming and ardent percussion to concoct a potion of liquid metal that pours down your

gar drums and directly into your bloodstream. Each track holds something extraordinary, but if I had to pick favorites, "The Grid" would be one of them. Mix lethal lyrics, what sounds like helicopters and people screaming, add intense drum beats, and then pour over toxic keyboards, and there you have "The Grid". Another favorite is "Pictures of You". This track has a circus sound to it, but I don't think I want THESE evil clowns coming to my birthday party - or maybe I would! SMP's anthem track, "Policy", states it best, "I just tear it up". And they do, in all 17 tracks of *Terminal*

-Sonya



★★★★

THE AZOTIC

Forward

Nileah Records

Catchy electro dance beats keep *Forward* moving forward. Kinky always does a remarkable job belting the vocals against the dramatic electro rhythms behind her. The first song "Not Justified" explodes from the get go with "Lost" keeping the high energy felt basically throughout the entire album. It's no wonder The Azotic are constantly on DJ playlists and request lists. For all those Azotic fans out there, *Forward* will not disappoint. It's eleven tracks which include remixes by Fiction 8 and Assemblage 23. For the fans of electro looking for well produced and danceable music, check out The Azotic.

-Constantine



★★★½

MURDER OF CROWS

Under the Flash

Blood and Bone Music

Seattle Washington's Murder of Crows features femme vocals and predominant guitar work in their cd, *Under the Flash*. This cd has a rock sound with gothic titles like "Little Bloodmaker", "Crucified", and "Sentimental Killer". I particularly like the nasty little number, "Black Sugar Tongue", whose sexy lyrics sum up my feelings exactly - because I like boys who wear make-up, too! Other favorite tracks include: "Confession", which has a sultry

Middle Eastern-sounding guitar background, accentuating strong female vocals; and "Sant of Killers" with Spanish influenced acoustic guitar composition. The final track, "Closure", features soft, sweet vocals that harden into aggressive growls as the track progresses; and then once again become sugary sweet. *Under the Flash* has an indie-gar rock beat with a gothic punch.

-Sonya



★★★★

SHADOW REICHENSTEIN

Independent

The Beach Boys in black eyeliner. Oh, this is FUN! Howling wolves, thunder, lightning. The spookoo bell tolls, and then we're "Cemetery Surfin'". With tracks like "Dracula Built My Hot Rod" (I envision the Munster-Mobile pulling up outside), and the ode to the Animals' "House of the Rising Sun" aptly renamed "Fear of the Rising Sun" (for all you vampires out there), Shadow Reichenstein is campy with a Capital "C"! My favorite track? I guess it would be "Texas Tumbleweed Terror" (get along little ghoulies!) Hmmmm... I wonder if I can do the twist in a long black velvet dress? If you don't like to laugh at yourself, well then don't bother. This CD is hilariously spooky fun with a MEAN guitar.

-Sonya



★★★★½

DARGAARD

The Dissolution Of Eternity
Napalm Records

Third in the Dargaard Trilogy, *The Dissolution of Eternity* is an ethereal gem. Lush compositions build as Elizabeth Toner's vocals rise in contrast to Tharen's dark lyrics. Symphonic keyboards play out the rituals of Dargaard's medieval sounds. Beginning with "As Old as the Bones of the Earth", and ending with the "Wanderer at the End of Time", Germany's Dargaard takes the listener on a journey through thousands of years - in just under an hour. If you follow Dargaard's "Path In The Dust", you will find yourself blissfully lost in a delicate abyss of dark ambient sound.

-Sonya



★★★★

MORGENSTERN

Heute Ist Die Rache Mein
Napalm Records

"Today vengeance is mine". The cover of this cd features a strapping gentleman on a beautiful white horse. That is the first thing that gets my attention. The music begins, and it feels as if I have wandered into a Renaissance Pleasure Fair - in Germany. Now I don't understand a word they are singing, but harmonizing vocals take you on a Bohemian trip with curious instrumentation ranging from flute & clarinet to metal-edged guitars. Notable tracks would include "Ach so bald", with it's "fractured fairy tale" sound, along with the gentle acoustic guitar and gentle rain sounds of the very brief instrumental interlude, "April". Definitely different.

-Sonya

-Constantine



★★★★

THE MIRROR REVEALS

Divinity

Middle Pillar Presents

I have come to expect great things from Middle Pillar, and I haven't been disappointed yet. The Mirror Reveals' EP, *Divinity*, is no exception. Angelic female vocals carry you softly into the title track; then whisk you away on feathered bird wings. Still floating on currents of warm breezes, the next track, "Forsaken by Sky", continues this flight of pleasure. The third track, "Julia", features male vocals, melodic guitar and violin. "This Heaven Once More", an instrumental track, closes this lovely EP. Relax, light the scented candles, and draw a warm, milky bath. Let the mirror reveal its beauty to you.

-Sonya



★★★★

KIDNEYTHIEVES

Phi In The Sky

Relax Records

Kidneythieves have actually been on the scene for some time and I was delighted to hear their new material. For those not familiar with KT, as well as established fans, *Phi in the Sky* is a treat for the ears! Complex auditory textures and lyrical prowess make kidneythieves among perhaps the best of their genre, while still managing to evade being labeled as any particular sub-set. Call it

Electro, call it Rock, but either way, it's excellent!

-Jessika



★★★★

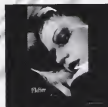
MORTIS

The Smell Of Rain

Eachee Records

In his most recent release, Mortis pays aural homage to darkwave while simultaneously baring very personal lyrics and experimenting with new sounds and textures. Though criticized by some, it is obvious that Mortis is not in the least bit shallow - rather he is a fine example of the rare willingness as an artist to evolve into newer sounds. I was immensely impressed by this album and were I to pick my favorite tracks, I'd go with the tracks "Monolith" and the haunting and moving "Everyone Leaves". *The Smell of Rain* is quite a suitable addition to anyone's CD collection.

-Jessika



★★★★

FLUTTER

Molting

Flutter Music

"Deafening voice is a definite choice" - If that is the case then Christine Ingaldson would be mine in an instant. This performer's voice is absolutely beautiful and multi-faceted. This is a truly rare talent in a singer- the ability to sound like many different people at once. Whether she is singing harmonies in a beautiful, angelic

false alto or simply speaking her mind, the voice commands your attention. As the sole performer in her project Flutter, Christine created a masterpiece with gentle synthetic drums being moved to the background with her voice taking over the foreground. Elements of Diamanda Galas, Tara Vanflower, and Lisa Gerard back the 11 tracks that form the heraidry of Molting. A must-have for fans of ethereal gothic music.

-Poseidon



★★★★

THE CRUXSHADOWS

Paradox Addendum

Dancing Ferret Discs

One listen to the Cruxshadows and you understand instantly why they are so highly revered in the gothic community. I have seen this band live and walked away thoroughly impressed. Rarely does a band demonstrate the level of energy the Cruxshadows are capable of. Their latest release *Paradox Addendum* doesn't let down in the slightest. Between the brilliant synthetic productions forming the background of their music and the passionate capture of lead vocalist Rogue's voice lays the very talented Rachel McDonnell's violin. The use of this instrument brings the perfect "ethereal" edge to the Cruxshadows already addictive pieces elevating the listener to somewhere near ecstasy. The second track "Cruelty" is a hard-hitting club anthem that starts at intense and ends somewhere near brilliant. With the flavors of Wire rushing through the 7 tracks completing this piece, this album screams "play me". Perfect music for getting ready to be anywhere but where you are now. This album will become a permanent and prominent part of my music collection.

-Poseidon



★★★★

ETERNA

From Dungeon's Luxury of Doubt

The Nature Of Gothic

It's hard to believe from the onset of this album's opening track "Rain" that Eterna is actually a solo act. A very thick, tight layering of synthesizers and guitars backed by the soulful dark voice of David Quinn, Eterna spring to mind how good the Sisters of Mercy could be now if they actually recorded an album. The material here is very dark, aggressive, and danceable (the latter part is intended as a compliment of the highest caliber). The production on this album is shimmering. Everything is crisp and sharp. All the layerings of instruments, at least 8 deep from what I can tell, are beautifully defined. Each track gently blends into the next track making this release something that is meant to be listened to in it's entirety. Given the night bachelorette Eterna could easily be on par with the Fields of the Nephilim and Clan of Xymox. This album has "gothic club anthem" written all over it. A real pleasure to review.

-Poseidon



★★★½

SOLEFALD

Pills Against The Ageless Ills
Century Media Records

Put *Pills Against The Ageless Ills* and prepare yourself for total immersion in a world many of us too easily ignore. Cornelius Jakhellin and Lazare Nedland



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page 28

Flaming Angels: 3506 Swansacre Vancouver B.C.,
Canada V5S 4E 60-377-1165 page 2

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Goth Car: www.GothCar.com page 58

Gothic Slut: www.GothicSlut.com page 2

Lee Higge Photography: www.kinky-machine.com
pages 21-25

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Merlin Mund: www.MerlinMund.com page 20

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page 10

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page 7

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have created not just an album, but a harrowing opus cast against the black underworld of politics, pills, and pornography. A fusion of metal, black melodies, and a healthy splash of Laibach, this album is definitely an assault on the senses. I can safely say that most of the conceptual work behind this album was lost on me... I have not the attention span, nor the intellect, to absorb all the hidden messages dispersed throughout this piece. Given a lifetime or two, perhaps I could. There is a strong level of talent in this group. They are definitely accomplished musicians who deserve the respect of their peers for such intelligent musical composition. A truly great album.

-Poseidon



★★★★½

AMBER SPYGLASS
Amber Spyglass

This self-titled debut e.p. from Massachusetts area musicians Amber Spyglass was an interesting change-of-pace from other pieces I have reviewed. One of the things that defines ethereal, darkwave, and gothic music is a strong prevalence of "effects". Overproduction and intense use of space-echoes and cavernous reverbs are virtually non-existent on this album. The e.p. is a very straightforward, no-nonsense collection of five tracks. I am not even certain there is a musical genre that can define the power behind this band's music. The closest approximation to what I heard on this release is Tom Amos. Whether this is intentional or simply a happy accident could only be answered by the performers themselves. The tracks come straight at you as raw as anything you could imagine. The songs themselves show a strong level of creativity. Rather than following the normal "rules" of songwriting

(i.e.: Verse-Chorus-Verse-Bridge-Chorus) the songs "build themselves" as they go along. Kelly Godshalls strong voice backed by John DeGregorio's excellent guitar work make a truly unique piece that will fit beautifully in Projekt's catalogue. Very well done.

-Poseidon



★★★★½

DIE FORM
Die Puppe II
Metropolis Records

Composed, performed and recorded in the early 1990's, and remastered just recently, *Die Puppe II* is a fantastic ambient piece. Reflecting the artistry of Philippe Fichot, this is surely an album to experience. Stark and ethereal in it's sound, *Die Puppe II* offers some definite highlights. I recommend "After the Crime" and "Ton Retrait des Eaux" as key listening points on this album. Early synth may be an acquired taste, but crucial to explore as it ties so deeply to the future of music. Check this one out!

-Jessikae



★★★★

CESIUM:137
The Fall
Tonedead Records

Cesium 137 has done a positively astounding job keeping the spirit of post-industrial dance alive. *The Fall* is highly club-friendly and modern, while preserving an ebb and flow of alternately climactic

and steady beats... These are positively sure to move you. If you haven't heard intelligent electronics, you haven't heard this! Standout tracks include "The Fall" (matrix - morpheus mix) and "Language Without Lies" (motherlongue mix). Ecstatic and rhythmic, Cesium 137 is an artist to appease every taste and sense!

-Jessikae



★★★★

MOONSPELL
Darkness And Hope
Century Media Records

Moonspell takes us from black velvet to ashes and sack-cloths in a heartbeat. "All your" Darkness and Hope" . . . brings all-consuming, haunting vocals, like darkness itself, and the subtle arrogance of the vampire consuming soul, flesh, and all hope from "Heart-shaped Abyss" to "Firewalking" as darkest vocals slip seamlessly between sweet, thick as honey, to harsh goth-metal, embraced by excellent guitar arrangements as equally enthralling, and gloom-and-doom. Culminating a decade of recordings, including 6 albums, a half-dozen singles and demo albums, and nine compilation appearances, Century Media Records unleashes upon hungry Moonspell masses *Darkness and Hope*, another full-length contribution to an on-going narrative involving death, life, and the rise and fall of the immortal soul. Finally, a tribute to Ozzy Osbourne, "Mr. Crowley", done so beautifully here for Live show fanatics, completes *Darkness and Hope*.

-Jett Black



★★★★½

DISSONANCE
Reincarnate
Nilaiiah Records

Reincarnate is Dissonance's latest release. Cat Hall (vocals) and David Sobrind (programming) make up this electro group hailing from Texas. I've been a Dissonance fan for about 2 years now and so this new release was highly anticipated by me. Strong tracks include "Tightrope", "Anxiety", their remake of "Eleanor Rigby", with "Desperate" as one of their stand-out tracks. This song ("Desperate") has been produced and mixed very well. Electronically speaking, it's the best song on the album. The more I've been listening to *Reincarnate*, the more I like it.

-Constantine



★★★

NAME YOUR DISPLEASURE
The Phoenix Underground
Ankhor Records

This is a 13 track compilation disc featuring some of the sounds from the Phoenix Underground. I put this disc in and was immediately dancing to Noise Process. They are a very talented electro group which I'm sure we'll be hearing more from. I noticed the diversity of styles on this CD from Electro to Goth to Death Metal. Fans of hard driving guitars and strong vocals will love this CD. Neurosyn (track 12) croon over dark rhythms to complete this sample of black.

-Constantine

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